

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Carol Rudolph
Serial No.: 10/713,598
Filing Date: November 14, 2003
Title: "LITTER BOX"
Art Unit: 3644
Examiner: Bret C. Hayes
Atty. Docket No.: 4000335-148192

DECLARATION OF INVENTOR UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

1. I, Carol Rudolph, am the sole inventor of the subject matter of the above-identified patent application.
2. I have owned and cared for cats for virtually my entire adult life and currently have three cats. Over the years I have used many different litter boxes, all of which had problems of one kind or another. The most common problem is that litter escapes from the litter box to the surrounding floor resulting in additional cleanup of the floor. It was because of this ongoing problem with commercially available litter boxes that I began to make my own litter boxes. I tried many different configurations until I determined that the litter box disclosed in the above-identified patent application provided the best results.
3. Through the course of using various litter boxes, I discovered that cats tend to face an entrance opening when within a litter box having walls high enough that cannot see over.

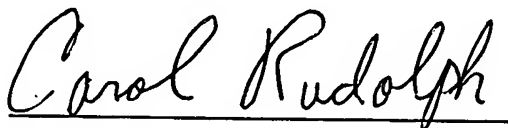
Thus, they urinate in a direction away from the entrance opening. I observed that approximately 2 out of 3 cats exhibit this behavior on a regular basis.

4. Through the course of using various litter boxes, I also discovered that cats tend to face away from sharp corners, such as right-angle corners, when they urinate so that urinate toward the corners. Thus, they urinate in a direction away from the entrance opening. I observed that essentially all cats exhibit this behavior on a regular basis.

5. Through the course of using various litter boxes, I also discovered that centrally locating the entrance opening in a lateral direction on a wide side of a rectangular container further reduces the amount of escaping litter etc. because the distance between the corners and the entrance opening is maximized. I observed that escaping litter etc. is substantially eliminated when the entrance opening is located in this manner.

6. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

September 10, 2005

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Rudolph". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Carol Rudolph